BY JESSIE ROLPH BROWN PHOTOS BY CLAY SMITH

INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

CARGILL, EDDYVILLE

Employees at Eddyville plant spearhead donation to Honey Creek

It may not be your traditional return on investment. But for Cargill, a \$50,000 donation to Rathbun Lake Resort will have lasting benefits for its employees, its business and the community. Spearheaded by employees at the Eddyville corn milling plant, the donation will sponsor the future activities center at Honey Creek Resort State Park, where kids and adults can take part in environmental education programs and other nature-based activities. "We spend as much money as possible in activities and initiatives that our employees are involved in," says Gavin Atkinson, facility manager of the Eddyville plant. "It was that link to education, and how it tied in with the importance of our natural resources, which is very important to Eddyville and Cargill." And the extra benefits of donating towards the resort park? Honey Creek is not only a great destination for current employees to recharge, but a way to attract new Cargill staff to the area. "It's important to enrich our communities; it's another great thing to have in southeast lowa," Atkinson says. Eddyville Cargill employees have been generous towards their community by giving through payroll deductions and matching Eddyville and corporate donations. A team of employees works to disperse those donations throughout the community, and looked to Honey Creek. "It's a very generous donation. Cargill is such an important part of our area and have really been committed to our area over the years—they were one of our lead donors," says Kevin Kness, president of Rathbun Lake Resort, Inc.





BUILDING UPON A LEGACY

BARB CLIMIE, CENTERVILLE, and MARTHA HOCH, CHARITON Sisters honor their pioneering father with \$5,000 donation

The view from the comfy chairs of the second floor sitting area at the Honey Creek lodge is like a dream for sisters Martha Hoch and Barb Climie. Just outside is Lake Rathbun, where they've spent countless hours boating, skiing and picnicking, thanks to their father's decades-long work to create the lake. He also envisioned a resort on the lake, so when the sisters heard about the need for donations to help complete Honey Creek Resort State Park, they knew it was the perfect way to honor their father, Robert K. Beck. "My father was one of the founders of the lake association and this would have been his pride and joy. It's continuing what he had started," says Climie, of Centerville. The owner and publisher of the local Daily lowegian newspaper, Beck worked to create opportunities for his native Centerville and championed the idea of a resort to the state legislature and others. After taking a tour of the lodge with members of Rathbun Lake Resort, Inc., Climie and Hoch decided to give \$5,000 towards the sitting area, making them some of the first private donors for the project. "My parents were known as great entertainers," says Hoch, of Chariton. "The seating area is a great place to gather, so it seemed appropriate." The sisters also see the resort as a great place to bring people together—both their own families and for the larger community. Hoch plans to celebrate Christmas at the lodge with her children and grandchildren, and both see the resort as a boon to the area. "It's going to help our community, bring visitors to our area and help the economy," says Climie.

JOIN THE EFFORT

Create your own legacy with a donation or sponsorship at Honey Creek Resort State Park

Donors have helped make Honey Creek Resort State Park a reality, and there are still plenty of ways to be a part of the success. Donors can work with Rathbun Lake Resort, Inc., a local fundraising group established by area residents to help bring the destination resort to Rathbun Lake. Make a donation and be recognized on the resort's Legacy Wall or on a name recognition sign on one of the resort's meeting and conference rooms, golf holes, cabins, trails or boat docks, for example. A donation towards completing the resort is an investment in the community and the state, says Kevin Kness, Rathbun Lake Resort president. "It's an awesome facility. It will be a destination people will return to and a great asset for lowa. I encourage anyone with an interest in the area or the state to be a part of this." To learn more, contact: Kevin Kness at 641-932-7887; Carol Bradley at 641-437-7206; Denny Ryan at 641-799-3861; or Bill Duey at 641-647-2464.

Cargill is just one sponsor that has donated \$1,000 to \$50,000. OTHER LEAD SPONSORS INCLUDE:

- Iowa Trust and Savings Bank, Centerville, \$50,000
- Peoples State Bank, Albia, \$30,000
- First Iowa State Bank, Centerville, \$30,000
- Roger and Jan Winslow, \$30,000
- Mercy Medical Center, Centerville, \$30,000
- L and W Quarries/Ideal Ready Mix/ Johnson Holding Company, \$30,000